

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

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FOR: SER/INC; S/NM

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TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJ: FUNDS FOR NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROJECT

AGREEMENT CUSTOMS OF COLOMBIA

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL/COMMENTS ON FUNDING PROGRAM
BELOW.

1. THE CUSTOMS EFFORT IN THE FIELD OF INTERDICTION OF ILLEGAL
DRUGS AND NARCOTICS HAS BEEN SLOW IN GAINING MOMENTUM,
BECAUSE OF INTERNAL PERSONNEL PROBLEMS, BUT IS NOW BEGINNING
TO MOVE APACE. TRAINING OF THE CUSTOMS JUDICIAL
POLICE CONTINUES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
OFFICE. PERSONNEL QUALIFIED TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION IN
NARCOTICS INTERDICTION WORK ARE UNDERGOING TRAINING
IN A COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE AND NARCOTICS COURSE.
TRAINING (BY U. S. CUSTOMS) IS UNDERWAY FOR 15 GOC CUSTOMS
NARCOTICS COURSE INSTRUCTORS. FOUR GOC CUSTOMS OFFICERS
HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN NARCOTICS IN THE U. S. US-FINANCED
COMMODITIES ORDERED IN 1974 ARE BEGINNING TO ARRIVE.H
DISTRIBUTION OF IN-COUNTRY AND ARRIVING COMMODITIES
BASED ON AN UP-DATED PLANNED PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY.

2. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE QUALIFIED PERSONNEL WITH PROPER
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EQUIPMENT WORKING NARCOTICS IN THE INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORTS, PORTS AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WHERE CUSTOMS HAS RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY. TRAINING FOR JUDICIAL POLICE AND NARCOTICS WORK (APPROX. 45 CUSTOMS PERSONNEL) NOW UNDERWAY WILL ALLOW FOR THE SELECTION AND TRAINING OF CUSTOMS INSTRUCTORS WHO WILL TRAIN SELECTED CUSTOMS PERSONNEL WHO WILL WORK IN THE SPECIALIZED NARCOTICS UNIT. A LAWYER HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHIEF OF THE CUSTOMS NARCOTICS UNIT. HE IS ATTENDING AND PARTICIPATING IN THIS PART OF THE TRAINING AND SELECTION OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL FOR INSTRUCCGORS.

3. THE CUSTOMS JUDICIAL POLICE HAS PERSONNEL WORKING IN THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS OF ELDORADO IN BOGOTA AND PALMASECA IN CALI AS PART OF THE ONLY COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNITS WORKING IN COLOMBIA. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS HAS AGREED TO SUPPORT WITH PERSONNEL OTHER LIKE UNITS. AT THE SUGGESTION OF THIS MISSION, CUSTOMS SENT A VEHICLE, FOUR RADIOS WITH BATTERY CHARGERS AND A BINOCULAR TO THE COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNITNUN BOGOTA TO BE USED IN THE ELDORADO AIRPORT. DURING 1974, CUSTOMS PERSONNEL SEIZED APPROX, 244,403 KILOS 626 GRAMS OF MARIJUANA AND 40 KILOS, 274 GRAMS OF COCAINE. CUSTOMS SEIZURES IN 1975 TO DATE ARE APPROX. 25,303 LBS OF MARIJUANA AND 168 LBS. OF COCAINE.

4. TENTATIVE PLANS ARE THAR OPERATIONS CENTERS THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS QUALIFIED PERSONNEL, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION BECOME AVAILABLE. FOR THE EXPANSION OF THEIR MARINE CAPABILITY, CUSTOMS HAS ORDERED FIVE BERTRAM MARINE VESSELS COSTING SOME \$38,000 EACH FROM A U.S. COMPANY. TWO (2) WORKING IN TURBO NOW AND 3 IN PROCESS OF ASSIGNMENT. WITH THE PLANNED EXPANSION OF NARCOTICS INTERDICTION OPERATIONS WITH TRAINED PERSONNEL IN THE PORTS, AIRPORTS AND IN LAND-INSPECTION POINTS, THE MISSION WOULD PROPOSE SUPPORT FOR GOC CUSTOMS NATIONAL NARCOTICS INTERDICTION TOTALING \$157,000 FOR FY 75: \$26,000 FOR BOATS AND MOTORS (5 EACH) \$5,000 FOR REVOLVERS. 38 CAL. (59 EACH); 10,000 FOR VHF RADIOS (8EACH) FOR BERTRAM VESSELS; \$65,000 FOR RADIOS UHF (25 EACH) W/EQUIP; \$3,000 UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR NARCOTICS DISPOSAKITS (100 EACH); \$36,000 FOR PEEPS 6 EACH); \$10,000 OTHER COSTS. OTHER COSTS WOULD INCLUDE TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS.

5. A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT OUTLINED ABOVE HAS BEEN REACHED WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS OF COLOMBIA AND IF THE FUNDS INDICATED ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MISSION, A PRO-AG COULD BE CONSUMATED PROMPTLY.

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